

What is claimed is:

1. A method for connecting a plurality of devices which have a common telephone number and which are connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

Looking up the telephone number in a table that associates the telephone number with a plurality of devices having an address;

Establishing a connection with at least one of said devices;

Establishing a bridge between that device and a secondary device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of looking up the telephone number in a table is performed by a call agent.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein each device has a unique address.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein each device has a unique domain name.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the devices are connected to gateways.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the call agent contacts a gateway, which establishes a connection with a first device.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the gateway contacted by the call agent establishes a bridge to a second gateway, to which a second device is attached.

- 10

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is attached to a PSTN.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the network attached to the Internet is an Internet Protocol network.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is attached both to the Internet and to PSTN.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein the network that is attached both to the Internet and to PSTN is an Internet Protocol network.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein the bridge is established via a cable modem termination system.
21. The method of claim 1, wherein the bridge is established by whichever device is first answered.
22. The method of claim 1, wherein the bridge is established via an Ethernet connection between the devices.
23. The method of claim 1, wherein the bridge conveys audio information.

25. An apparatus for connecting a plurality of devices which have a common telephone number and which are connected to a network, comprising:

A network for establishing a connection with at least one of said devices;
a bridge between that device and a secondary device.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the call agent contacts a gateway, which establishes a connection with a first device.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the first gateway mixes information from both at least one device attached to the first gateway and at least one device attached to the second gateway.

Docket: D2653

30. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the devices comprise a voice-only telephone.

31. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the devices comprise a video telephone.

32. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the devices comprise at least one voice-only telephone attached a first gateway, and at least one video telephone attached to a second gateway.

33. The method of claim 25, wherein Voice over Internet Protocol is used to communicate with the devices.

34. The method of claim 25, wherein the connection to the devices is established using media gateway control protocol.

35. The method of claim 25, wherein the network is attached to the Internet.

36. The method of claim 25, wherein the network is attached to a PSTN.

37. The method of claim 25, wherein the network is attached both to the Internet and to PSTN.

Docket: D2653

38. A method for connecting a two devices which are associated with a common telephone number, comprising the steps of:

Looking up the telephone number in a table that associates the telephone number with the domain names of at least one of the devices;

Establishing a connection with that device;

Establishing a secondary connection between that device and a secondary device.